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Senate

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

Mr. President, today I rise to honor an outstanding group of young choir members who have brought joy and musical harmony to countless people in Delaware and around the world.

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware has been chosen to perform on January 25, 2006, for an audience at the White House that will include first lady Laura Bush. They will also be presented with the Coming Up Taller Award. This award is the nation's highest honor for after-school and out-of-school programs that use arts and humanities to enrich the lives of children. Created in 1998, this awards program is a project of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Cathedral Choir School has had an enormous positive impact on the lives of the students who pass through its halls. The more than 50 students, ranging in age from 7-17, who attend the school are encouraged to learn the enduring values

of discipline, responsibility, leadership and teamwork.

With more than 800 alumni since its inception in 1883, the Cathedral Choir School has had a positive impact on both the lives of the students who have had the privilege of participating in this Choir School and the lives of those around them. By training Delaware's young people in life skills and community involvement, the Cathedral Choir School has consistently enhanced the lives of all that it touches.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that the paid staff and volunteers of the Cathedral Choir School have demonstrated over the years. Under the direction today of Dr. Darryl Roland, these dedicated men and women have helped the lives of countless children. During his time of overseeing the Cathedral Choir School, Dr. Roland has served as a shining example of what is possible when good and caring adults decide to make a positive difference in the lives of children.

I would especially like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm that the individual members of the choir have shown during their time with the choir. These outstanding young people have made a personal commitment to themselves and to their communities to challenge themselves and try their best to live up to the high standards of the Cathedral Choir School. The rehearsals and after-school music training are done with a sense of love for artistic expression. It takes a special

type of person to share that gift with the rest of us.

The faculty and students of the Cathedral Choir School are to be commended and applauded for their extraordinary efforts. Their dedication and love of music continues to serve as an example of what is possible when young people are given the opportunity to follow their dreams. All of Delaware is proud of them.